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# LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its meeting held on 24 February 1999, raised serious concern over the assertions contained in the recent communications by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) concerning the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the United Nations.

In this regard, the Contract Group reiterated the position which the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference have consistently maintained with respect to questions resulting from the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia relating to the membership of the successor States in the United Nations. OIC member States consider all five States that emerged after the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which ceased to exist, equal successors which must apply for membership in order to become States Members of the United Nations. This position of the OIC member States is fully consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The Security Council, in its resolution 777 (1992), stated that "the State formerly known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has ceased to exist", and that "the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations".

Responding to this recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 47/1, that "the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations". The OIC member States consider that these resolutions respectively and unequivocally define the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the United Nations. This is to say that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is not the continuation of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, therefore, it is not a Member of the United Nations and further that, in order to become a Member State, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) must apply for

membership. These resolutions continue to be applicable and must be strictly adhered to.

Accordingly, the Contact Group strongly felt that the position taken in the communication by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) contravenes the above-mentioned resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as the position of the OIC member States on the issue. It is incumbent upon the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to follow the procedure for admission of new Member States and to apply for membership in the United Nations in the same manner as the other four successor States have been required to do.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations
Acting Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on
Bosnia and Herzegovina

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